

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 IO-10 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

ACDA-05 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 /074 W
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R 241537Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2218

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

DIA WASHDC

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS BEL

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

USIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, PINT, PO

SUBJ: RADIO INTERVIEW WITH PORTUGUESE COMMANDING OFFICER AT LAJES
AIR FORCE BASE

EMISSORA NACIONAL BROADCAST MARCH 21 ON "MORNING SHOW" THE FOLLOWING:

BEGIN TEXT: OPERATION ATLANTIDA (CULTURAL DYNAMIZATION). THIS PROGRAM WAS INTERRUPTED ON MARCH 11 AND WILL BE CONTINUED DURING THE FIRST HALF OF APRIL.

LAJES BASE - AMERICAN BASE. INTERVIEW WITH BRIGADIER MARIO HILTON PEREIRA, COMMANDER OF AZORES AIR ZONE.

Q. THE AMERICAN AIR BASE IN THE AZORES HAS BECOME A SENSITIVE SPOT FOLLOWING THE 25TH OF APRIL 1974 SITUATION. THE AZOREAN PEOPLE, PARTICULARLY HERE IN TERCEIRA, REPEAT RUMORS THAT IN THE AZORES THERE ARE BOMBS, HIDDEN UNDERGROUND, WITH A STRATEGIC MILITARY PURPOSE AND THAT DETONATING THESE (BOMBS) WOULD BE ENOUGH TO BLOW UP THE ISLAND. I WOULD APPRECIATE, SIR, IF YOU WERE TO ELUCIDATE ON THIS MATTER.

R: ON THIS I WILL SAY THAT, UNDER THE EXISTING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS, THE AMERICANS HAVE INSTALLATIONS, SOME OF THEM UNDERGROUND, SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THE ISLAND. AS TO THE CONTENTS OF THESE INSTALLATIONS, I DON'T HAVE EXACT KNOWLEDGE AS TO WHAT EXISTS IN THEM. AND I ADMIT THAT THE FEAR OF THE POPULATION MIGHT BE CAUSED BY SIMPLE REASONING, IN A CERTAIN WAY LOGICAL, THAT IN THE CASE OF CONFLICT THE LAJES BASE WOULD BE THE OBJECT, OR THE TARGET OF RETALIATION BY FORCES WHICH MIGHT WANT TO DESTROY IT. OBVIOUSLY, THE POPULATION WOULD THEN RUN A RISK.

Q: DO YOU NOTICE, THEN, ANY DIFFERENCE IN PERSONAL RELATIONS BETWZEN PORTUGUESE AND AMERICAN OFFICERS AND SOLDIERS AFTER THE 25TH OF APRIL? THE AMERICANS, WHAT DO THEY SAY ABOUT THE 25TH OF APRIL? HAVE THEY FORMULATED AN OPINION?

R: I DO NOT HAVE ANY OPINION ON THAT. I ARRIVED HERE AFTER THE 25TH OF APRIL. MY RELATIONS AND THOSE OF OTHER OFFICERS WITH THE AMERICANS, AS FAR AS I CAN SEE, ARE FRIENDLY

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EVEN IF NOT TOO FREQUENT. AS TO THE OPINION OF THE AMERICAN PERSONNEL IN RELATION TO THE 25TH OF APRIL, I HAVE NOT DETECTED ANYTHING SPECIAL AND I BELIEVE IT MIGHT EVEN BE A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE FOR THE AMERICANS NOT TO GIVE AN OPINION ABOUT THE EVENT.

Q: I WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE, SIR, IF YOU WOULD INFORM ME WHETHER, IN YOUR CAPACITY AS HEAD OF THE PORTUGUESE AIR FORCE

HERE, AND TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE EXISTING AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE PORTUGUESE AND THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS, YOU HAVE
ACCESS TO ALL EXISTING MILITARY FACILITIES?

R: I WOULD SAY YES, THAT I CAN CONTROL IN A MANNER
ACCEPTABLE TO ME THE ACTIVITIES WHICH OCCUR ON THE ISLAND. ALL
AMERICAN AIR MOVEMENT OR THAT OF ANY OTHER NATIONALITY WHICH
TRANSITS HERE I CONTROL. WE KNOW WHERE THEY COME FROM AND
WHERE THEY INTEND TO GO.

Q: DO YOU HAVE DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE EXISTING MATERIAL?

R: THAT IS NOT SO. WHAT I MEAN IS, IF CONCRETE CASES
WERE TO OCCUR I WOULD HAVE TO RAISE THE PROBLEM BEFORE THE
AMERICAN COMMAND, AND I WOULD HOPE THAT THAT WOULD NOT
CREATE DIFFICULTIES IN OUR CONTACTS IF IT WERE TO HAPPEN.
BUT I DO BELIEVE THAT THIS IS A PROBLEM IN A WAY NATURAL,
SINCE THEIR INSTALLATIONS ARE EQUIPPED BY THEY THEMSELVES.
OBVIOUSLY, TO ENTER THEM ONE WOULD REQUIRE PERMISSION FROM THE
AMERICAN COMMAND.

Q: IS IT BECAUSE OF THE STRATEGIC MILITARY NATURE THAT YOU
DO NOT HAVE ACCESS? THAT IS, AMERICAN MILITARY STRATEGY?

R: NO. I ONLY HAVE A VERY FAINT IDEA OF THE STRATEGIC
CONNECTIONS, THAT IS, WHICH OCCUR HERE, AND HOW IT IS INTEGRATED
WITH AMERICAN STRATEGY. THIS IS VERY VAGUE, I ONLY HAVE A
VERY FAINT IDEA ON THE SUBJECT.

Q: ONE OF THE REALLY FRIGHTENING THEMES, MAYBE
FRIGHTENING BECAUSE OF ITS TANGIBLE REALITY, IS THE QUESTION
OF THE CIA. IT IS REPORTED HERE IN TERCEIRA THAT THE CIA
HAS ATTEMPTED TO INFILTRATE, USING, HYPOTHETICALLY OR NOT, A
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TOURISM AGENCY WHICH BY ITS ATMOSPHERE AND REACTIONS, IN A
SHORT PERIOD, GAVE THE IMPRESSION OF NOT REALLY BEING A
TOURIST AGENCY. I WOULD BE GRATEFUL, SIR, IF YOU COULD
ELUCIDATE ON THIS.

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R: AS TO THE CIA, THAT HAS BEEN GONE OVER SEVERAL TIMES
IN THE RECENT PAST. I DO NOT HAVE ANY CONCRETE EVIDENCE THAT
THE CIA IS MAKING AN ATTEMPT HERE IN ANY SCALE. THE CASE
OF THAT TOURISM AGENCY YOU REFER TO IS A MATTER WHICH HAS
BEEN REFERRED TO MILITARY CHANNELS. IT HAPPENED TO BE A

STRANGE CASE BECAUSE OF WHAT THAT TOURIST AGENCY TRIED TO START HERE IN TERCEIRA. THE PROBLEM HAS BEEN PUT BEFORE THE MILITARY WHO WILL INVESTIGATE IT. WE ARE AWAITING THE RESULTS.

Q: WE BELONG TO NATO AND THERE IS ANOTHER FORCE, THAT IS, THE WARSAW PACT. NEVERTHELESS, THERE ARE A FEW COUNTRIES WHICH DO NOT BELONG TO EITHER OF THESE TWO MILITARY FORCES. AFTER THE 25TH OF APRIL ONE MUST POSE THE HYPOTHETICAL QUESTION THAT PORTUGAL WILL BECOME INDEPENDENT OF THESE TWO FORCES, SO-CALLED IMPERIALISTS - WARSAW PACT ON THE EAST AND NATO ON THE WEST.

R: THAT IS A NATIONAL POLITICAL PROBLEM AND THEREFORE IN THE HANDS OF THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT. AT PRESENT, I HAVE NOTHING MORE TO SAY ABOUT THIS.

Q: IN THE AZORES THERE ARE ALREADY SEVERAL POLITICAL PARTIES. NEVERTHELESS, THE PARTY MAPA RECENTLY APPEARED. WE HAVE ALREADY MADE SEVERAL CONTACTS WITH ELEMENTS OF MAPA AND WE ARE UNDER THE IMPRESSION, AS NEWSPAPERmen, AND THAT IS AT THE LEVEL OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ARCHIPELAGO, THAT MAPA MIGHT BE CONNECTED WITH AMERICAN INTERESTS. THEREFORE, AUTONOMY OF THE AZORES, INDEPENDENCE OF THE AZORES, WOULD MEAN CEASING TO BE PORTUGUESE. AND I MUST ADD, AS A JOURNALIST, THAT IN THE ENQUIRIES I HAVE CONDUCTED THE AZOREANS ARE 100 PER CENT PORTUGUESE BUT THAT MAPA, USING THE TERM AUTONOMY, INDEPENDENCE MEANS BECOMING AMERICAN DEPENDENTS, WITH AMERICANS' POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL EXPLOITATION... EXPLOITATION WOULD RESULT AND THE EXPLOITERS, THOSE MAPA GENTLEMEN WOULD BE THE EXPLOITERS. DO YOU, SIR, HAVE ANY KNOWLEDGE WITH RESPECT TO THIS?

R: THE KNOWLEDGE I HAVE OF MAPA IS VERY GENERAL, I AM NOT GOING TO REPEAT WHAT ALREADY HAS BEEN SAID MANY TIMES. (MAPA) IS INSTALLED HERE IN THE ARCHIPELAGO, IN CERTAIN ISLANDS MORE SO THAN IN OTHERS. I DO ADMIT - BUY ONLY AS A PERSONAL OPINION - THAT IT MIGHT BE MAPA'S STRATEGY TO DEFEND WHAT IT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BELIEVES TO BE IN ITS INTEREST SUPPORTING THE USA. BUT IT IS A PERSONAL OPINION WHICH SEEMS TO HAVE A CERTAIN LOGIC IF THEY ARE POSSIBLY SEEKING SUCH SUPPORT. END TEXT.

COMMENT: EMISSORA NACIONAL SAW TO IT THAT LISTENERSHIP TO THIS INTERVIEW WOULD BE HIGH BY ANNOUNCING SEVERAL TIMES OF "UPCOMING INTERVIEW ABOUT AMERICAN MILITARY PRESENCE IN THE AZORES." CARLUCCI

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